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WORLD HOG NUMBERS IN 1952 AND 1953

World hog numbers at the beginning of 1953 are estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 301 million head, compared with 307 million head a year earlier. The decrease of 2 per cent from last year's record total marks the first year of decline since 1946 and was largely the result of decreases in North America. World numbers are now 4 percent above the 1936-40 average.

Although there were some increases in Europe, Asia and South America, the rate of increase has slowed and it was not large enough to overcome decreases in the United States and Canada. Availability of other meats in plentiful supply and hog prices less attractive to producers in relation to feed prices in early 1952 was the principal cause for the decline during the past 12 months. Some tendency in early 1953 for feed grain prices to be lower in relation to hog prices may forestall further appreciable declines in 1953.

HOGS: Number by continent or area, averages
1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1952-1953.

Continent or area	Average		1952 <u>1/</u>	1953 <u>1/</u>	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1936-40	1946-50			<u>1953</u>	<u>1953</u>
					1936-40	1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
North America	61,400	74,000	80,400	71,200	+16	-12
Europe	76,500	54,000	77,400	78,400	+2	+1
U.S.S.R.	32,300	13,000	26,700	-	-	-
Asia	83,900	74,200	78,700	80,300	-4	+2
South America	31,300	33,900	38,100	39,000	+25	+2
Africa	3,400	3,900	4,000	4,000	+19	-
Oceania	2,100	2,000	1,800	1,800	-16	-
Total	290,900	255,000	307,100	301,400	+4	-2

1/ Preliminary

A summary of this information was published in the March 30, 1953 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

HQCS: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1948-1953

Continent and country	Month of estimate	Average		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
		1936-40	1946-50						
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	Dec. 1 1/	4,078	5,542	5,381	4,604	5,413	5,419	5,498	5,237
El Salvador.....	July	559 3/	325	348	-	-	419	-	-
Guatemala.....	July	213 3/	394	374	-	415	-	-	-
Honduras.....	July	235	364	399	372	407	-	550	-
Mexico.....	Jan. 1 3/4/	4,965 3/	5,430	-	-	5,500	-	5,500	-
Nicaragua.....	Jan. 1 3/	250	250	-	-	300	-	350	-
United States.....	Jan. 1	48,352	57,563	54,590	56,257	58,852	62,852	63,582	54,632
Cuba.....	Dec. 31 1/3/	904 3/	1,730	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	-	-
Dominican Republic.....	June 3/	842 5/	1,140	-	-	1,140	1,087	1,100	-
Estimated total.....		61,400	74,000	70,600	71,600	75,500	79,500	80,400	71,200
EUROPE									
Austria.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	2,849 6/	1,558 6/	1,724 6/	1,618 6/	1,927	2,780	2,700	2,850
Belgium.....	Jan. 1 1/	1,005 6/	886 6/	648 6/	912	1,361	1,234	1,427	1,360
Denmark.....	Jan.	2,997	2,033	1,604	1,944	3,120	3,616	3,229	3,906
Finland.....	Mar. 1 7/	485	350	304	409 4/	449	-	-	-
France.....	Fall 1/	7,034 6/	5,714 6/	5,678 6/	6,424 6/	6,747 6/	6,824 6/	7,222 6/	7,154
Germany, Western.....	Dec. 1 1/	12,660 6/	6,866 6/	5,516 6/	6,755 6/	9,698	11,890	13,603	12,972
Greece.....	Dec. 31 1/3/	532	482	480	509	530	568	635	640
Ireland.....	June	978	543	457	675	645	558	719	-
Italy.....	Jan. 1	3,700	3,800	3,949	4,400	-	4,052	-	3,770
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1 1/	148	100	100	106	110	100	-	-
Netherlands.....	Dec. 1 1/	1,725	1,187	937	1,158	1,795	2,273	2,110	2,300
Norway.....	June 20	393	321	248	419	422	386	418	-
Portugal.....	Dec. 31 1/5/	1,206 2/	1,200	1,200	-	-	-	-	-
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1/5/	4,944 3/	5,122	-	5,568	-	-	5,575	-
Sweden.....	Summer	1,292	1,213	1,195	1,238	1,278	1,324	1,363	-
Switzerland.....	April	915	783	767	877	908	892	1,007	-
United Kingdom.....	June	4,380	2,309	2,151	2,823	2,986	3,891	4,962	-
Yugoslavia.....	Jan. 1/	3,238	-	-	4,127	4,287	3,911	3,954	-
Total above.....		59,500	38,200	35,900	41,300	47,000	51,600	54,600	3,700
Other Europe.....		26,000	15,800	15,300	18,500	21,200	21,200	22,800	55,200
Estimated total.....		76,500	54,000	51,200	59,800	68,200	72,800	77,400	23,200
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)									
Jan. 1 5/		32,300	13,000	12,000	15,000	19,000	24,100	26,700	-

ASIA									
British Malaya.....	Dec. 31 1/	746 :	397 :	444 :	452 :	475 :	476 :	504 :	-
Burma.....	May	538 2/	323 :	402 :	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
China 8/.....		63,000 :	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
India.....	Jan. 1 5/	2,777 :	- :	- :	- :	3,713 :	3,709 :	4,173 :	4,200
Indonesia.....	Dec. 31 1/2/	1,199 2/	1,188 :	- :	- :	1,234 :	1,350 :	- :	-
Japan.....	Feb. 1 1/	960 :	301 :	205 :	488 :	608 :	452 :	799 :	825
Korea-South.....	Dec. 31 1/2/	828 :	440 :	521 :	659 :	525 :	156 :	335 :	-
Philippine Islands.....	Jan. 1 3/	4,398 2/	3,300 :	- :	3,533 :	3,899 :	4,159 :	4,449 :	5,500
Taiwan (Formosa).....	Dec. 31 1/	1,893 :	976 :	1,006 :	1,167 :	1,362 :	1,620 :	2,262 :	2,400
Estimated total.....		83,900 :	74,200 :	73,500 :	74,900 :	76,400 :	76,600 :	78,700 :	80,300
SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina.....	July	3,674 :	3,000 :	2,500 :	3,000 :	2,600 :	2,800 :	2,900 :	-
Brazil.....	June	23,224 :	24,400 :	24,500 :	24,500 :	25,000 1/	26,059 :	- 1/	29,000
Chile.....	Dec. 31 1/2/	420 2/	590 :	572 :	600 :	600 :	625 :	650 :	-
Colombia.....	Dec. 31 1/2/	1,572 2/	2,092 :	2,059 :	2,162 :	2,470 :	2,782 :	- :	-
Ecuador.....		350 2/	1,070 :	1,140 :	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
Peru.....	May	800 3/	911 1/	777 :	960 :	995 :	975 :	- :	260
Uruguay.....		373 3/	258 :	250 :	- :	- :	259 :	- :	-
Estimated total.....		31,300 :	33,900 :	36,400 :	34,200 :	34,800 :	36,400 :	38,100 :	39,000
AFRICA									
Algeria.....	April	58 :	140 :	142 :	160 :	137 :	103 :	- :	-
Nyasaland.....	Dec. 31 1/	65 2/	75 :	- :	80 :	91 :	45 :	- :	-
French Morocco 10/.....	Dec. 31 1/	64 :	68 :	68 :	97 :	103 :	84 :	56 :	60
Madagascar 10/.....	Dec. 31 1/	578 :	406 :	410 :	400 :	405 :	406 :	296 :	-
Mozambique.....	Dec. 31 1/	70 :	64 :	60 :	68 :	82 :	75 :	79 :	-
Northern Rhodesia.....	Dec. 31 1/	29 :	48 :	58 :	43 :	47 :	50 :	50 :	52
Angola.....		410 :	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
Southern Rhodesia.....	Dec. 31 1/	115 :	121 :	117 :	103 :	107 :	98 :	111 :	-
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31 1/	24 :	32 :	31 :	42 :	42 :	- :	- :	-
Union of South Africa.....	August	1,007 :	1,290 :	1,325 :	1,400 :	1,350 :	- :	- :	-
Estimated total.....		3,400 :	3,900 :	4,000 :	4,200 :	4,000 :	4,100 :	4,000 :	4,000
OCEANIA									
Australia.....	Mar. 31 1/	1,242 :	1,255 :	1,255 :	1,196 :	1,123 :	1,134 :	1,022 :	1,000
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	753 :	548 :	548 :	545 :	552 :	564 :	564 :	570
Estimated total.....		2,100 :	2,000 :	2,000 :	1,900 :	1,900 :	1,900 :	1,800 :	1,800
Estimated world total.....		290,900 :	255,000 :	249,700 :	261,600 :	279,800 :	295,400 :	307,100 :	301,400

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1947 estimate of 5,381,000 is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Averages for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ June. 5/ Census or estimate for single year. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 9/ Year 1934. 10/ Number taxed only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.--March, 1953.

Over-all demand for meat throughout the world since the end of World War II brought about a steady year to year increase up until 1952 when the peak was reached. Large increases in North and South America in the period offset decreased numbers in U.S.S.R., Asia and Oceania. Those countries producing hogs for commercial slaughter and export have shown the largest increases, while numbers in some countries notably Argentina, Uruguay, Australia, and New Zealand are only about three-fourths of prewar because of competition from other livestock enterprises and limited feed grain resources.

Hog numbers in the United States on January 1, 1953 were down 14 percent following the smaller spring and fall pig crops. The lower supply of pork had not brought about a corresponding price increase by the first of the year and lard prices also had continued to decline. The downturn in numbers probably will be halted during 1953, and hog numbers may be as large as this past January.

Canadian hog numbers decreased only 5 percent in comparison with the larger decrease in the United States, due largely to the more favorable feed grain situation. However, a December 1, 1952 survey in Canada of farmer intentions points to a reduction of about 20 percent in the spring pig crop and indicates a further fall in numbers a year hence as opposed to a leveling off in the United States.

In South America hog numbers increased slightly due to an increase of about 5 percent in Brazil, the leading hog-producing country in South America. Prices for pork products were favorable in relation to feed prices in late 1951 and early 1952 leading to an expansion of hog numbers in that country. Argentine hog numbers were down further due to the poor corn crop in 1951-52, and are now only 63 percent of the prewar average.

Hog numbers in Europe exceeded the prewar average last year and another small increase is estimated as of January 1, 1953, largely as a result of a more favorable feed situation and increased prices a year ago to those countries of Western Europe producing pork for export. Numbers in Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands are up about one-third over prewar.

Hog numbers in Asia are estimated to have made a 2 percent gain over last year and are now about 4 percent below prewar. There was considerable gain in the Philippines and numbers are now 25 percent above prewar. There also was a further gain in Taiwan, and a small increase is estimated in India.

In Oceania, hog numbers decreased slightly as a result of a downward change in Australia because of smaller supplies and higher prices for feed.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

